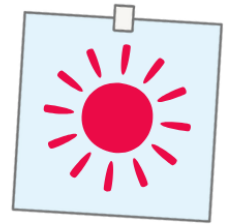




What's in Reno's Drug Supply?

Results - June/July 2026



What the Cut is a free, confidential, and anonymous drug checking program that analyzes tiny samples of drugs or drug residue to understand what's actually in them.



Since May 2024, we've tested 345 samples from Washoe County.

June / July samples: 105

We group sample results by what drug(s) they are expected to be.

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Information on treatment, naloxone, & test strips:

behavioralhealthnv.org 988lifeline.org

Expected methamphetamine: 56

56 / 56 (100%) had methamphetamine

- 12 also had DMA (meth byproduct)
- 1 also had cocaine

Expected fentanyl: 32

27 / 32 (83%) had fentanyl

- 14/32 also had methamphetamine
 - (11/14 tested paraphernalia)
 - (2/14 tested baggies)
 - (1/14 tested the drug itself)
- 6 also had mannitol
- 4 also had medetomidine*
- 1 also had levamisole, lidocaine, THC, or MDMA

5 / 32 (17%) did not have fentanyl

- 2/5 had methamphetamine
- 3/5 had no identifiable compounds

Expected meth + fentanyl: 10

9 / 10 had methamphetamine + fentanyl

- (All 10 tested paraphernalia)
- 2 also had THC
- 1 had traces of cocaine

1 / 10 had only methamphetamine

Expected cocaine: 3

3 / 3 had cocaine

- 2 also had methamphetamine

Expected ketamine: 2

1 / 2 had ketamine

1 / 2 had methamphetamine + caffeine

Expected meth + cocaine: 1

Had methamphetamine + cocaine

Expected heroin: 1

Had fentanyl + methamphetamine and traces of heroin + medetomidine

Summary

Overall, samples consistently contain the expected drug.

Unexpected substances are found mainly in samples collected from paraphernalia.

But some fentanyl samples also had small amounts of medetomidine.

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Discard after: 11/1/2026

A Closer Look



Medetomidine: a local update



Next, we're following up on info we shared about medetomidine in our previous flyer.

Medetomidine is a non-opioid sedative.

We first saw medetomidine in fentanyl in May 2026. As of mid-August, we've seen 5 fentanyl samples with it.

How common is medetomidine locally?

Medetomidine was found in 12% of fentanyl samples we tested in June and July.

Some people are calling this "rhino tranq".

How much medetomidine is in fentanyl?

Most was found in "trace amounts," or less than 1% of the total fentanyl sample.

But even in small amounts, medetomidine use can cause health problems needing urgent medical care.

What can you do?

- Use a test strip to confirm if medetomidine is present.
- Avoid using alone and be prepared for weird sensations.
- If someone overdoses on fentanyl with medetomidine in it, they might be really sedated. Prioritize rescue breathing.

Symptoms of medetomidine use?

Medetomidine use can cause unusual sensations like confusion, disorientation, and hallucinations.



Some people say it feels like they're drunk.

Disassociation and psychedelic visuals are common, but not universal signs of exposure.

Does it affect detox?

Medetomidine itself is dangerous, but it makes opioid withdrawal complicated, often needing medical care.

Withdrawal symptoms often include: Chest pain

Nausea & vomiting

Tremor

Fast heart rate

Rapid changes in alertness

High blood pressure



If hospitals can test for it, doctors may be able to taper patients off of medetomidine.

Doctors need to know about it, and so do you!

Medetomidine can cause serious damage or death!

Talk with your doctors, trust your gut, and always seek medical attention if something feels off.

719 W 5TH STREET, RENO NEVADA 89503 | 775-323-9813